

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 5, 7, and 8 are now pending in the application, with Claims 5 and 7 being independent claims. Claims 3, 5 and 7 have been amended and Claim 8 is newly-presented herein. Claims 1, 4 and 6 have been cancelled without prejudice of disclaimer.

Initially, Applicant again notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 5 and 7 recite allowable subject matter. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Claims 5 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Each of these claims has been amended to include the features of independent Claim 1 as well as intervening dependent Claim 4. The features of intervening dependent Claim 3 have not been incorporated into the new independent claims since those features were not believed to be necessary for patentability. Independent Claims 5 and 7, as well as dependent Claims 3 and 8, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since only allowable claims are believed to remain in the application, the § 103 rejections are deemed moot. The foregoing actions have been taken to expedite allowance.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this

application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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